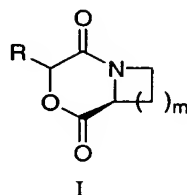


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process of preparing a compound of Formula I



5 wherein

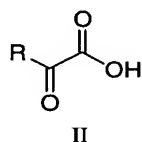
R is

- a) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
- b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino group; and

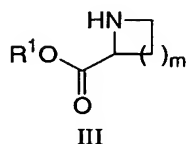
m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5;

comprising:

- a) coupling a keto acid of Formula II,



in presence of a peptide coupling reagent, with a compound of Formula III



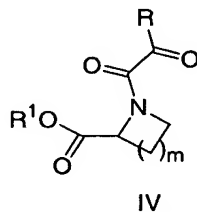
wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is

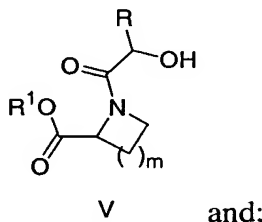
- a) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

- b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or  
 c) hydrogen;

5 to produce a ketoamide of Formula IV,



b) reducing ketoamide of Formula IV to produce a hydroxyamide of Formula V,



and;

10

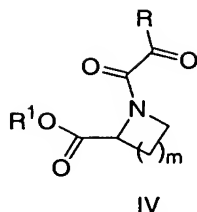
c) cyclizing the hydroxyamide of Formula V in the presence of an acid to produce a compound of Formula I.

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2. The process of claim 1 wherein R is an unsubstituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl.
3. The process of claim 2 wherein R group is tert-butyl and m=1.
4. The process of claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methyl and m=1.

20

5. A compound of Formula IV or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



R is

- 5      a) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
- b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino group;

R<sup>1</sup> is

- 10      a) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino;
- b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
- c) hydrogen; and
- 15      m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

6.      A process of Claim 1, wherein the peptide coupling agent is 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide.

20      7.      A process of Claim 1, wherein the acid is p-toluene sulfonic acid.